Be much for how the news was received. The pens up an almost endless field of speculation, and it would be impossible to give all the ns, the doubts, the fears, the hopes and the theories expressed in Government circles to-day. Some of these are fanbiful, some able, others ingenious. The reasons dvanced by the doubters to show that the mage did not come from Conger are met by those who believe in its genuineness th the assertion that a majority of the proof that it came from the American Minister is on their side. To dissect these various ons and to show whether they are worthy notice or not is not within the ability of any an of intelligence. It is therefore hardly worth thile to enter into a discussion of the scores of usgestions that have been made in and about the State, War and Navy buildings to-day, and this despatch will be confined to an exposition views of those officials who are best lified to discuss the matter, with particular

ce to the points that have been estab-

bed and those that are doubtful. In the first place, the despatch signed "Con-" was without doubt forwarded by the nor of Shantung to the Taotal of Shangwho sout it in turn to Minister Wu. Any of duplicity on the part of Minister We sad the Taotal of Shanghal must fall to the round, for Consul Fowler's telegraphs from hefoe that the Governor of Shantung had ined him that a cipher message from Minis-Conger had been received by the Governor om the Tsung-it-Yamen in Pekin. Should shown that the Conger message not sent from Pekin, the Governor ung must be held responsible duplicity. He has officially stated that densteh came to him from the Tsung-liand he cannot go back of that state-The geographical advantage possessed Governor of Shantung for communicawith Pekin, makes him the person to the Tsung-il-Yamen would naturally send nessage to be transmitted abroad or to ther parts of China. It therefore appears that Governor of Shantung would be the chansel of communication between his Government and the rest of the world, and, that if the message res concocted by him, he had reasons which noman can fathom for incurring the wrath of of the United States and, perhaps, of the nese Government.

Is has been asked many times to-day whether the dipher message signed "Conger" answered the question contained in the cipher message frich the Secretary of State sent to the American Minister at Pekin on July 11. Secretary Hay eave that it did. He declines, however, to nake public the text of the telegram to Minister Conger, for the reason that it would afford the opportunity for an insight into the legraphic orde of the State Department. While THE SUN reporter is unable to give the exact text of the Secretary's despatch he has been informed, practically in the words used by Mr. Hay, of what it contained, and for the purpose of permitting comparison between inquiry and answer his understanding of its contents is given in textual form, without any claim that it is strictly correct, as follows: "Send tidings of your condition. You may

trust the bearer The answer, signed Conger, "in the British egation," fits in perfectly with the request for nformation as to the condition of the American Minister. It is worthy of note that the Conger despatch is confined to answering the direction of the Secretary of State. The statement should not be omitted that the State Department's textual version of Mr. Conger's mes-age is not in the exact form in which it was written in cipher symbols. The sentences were transposed for the purpose of protecting the Department's cipher, but the language of the despatch is pre-

But is the Conger message genuine? Did Mr. Conger write it? Why, if he has been permitted to communicate with his Government, have not other Ministers at Pekin been permitted to communicate with their Governments? Is it not reasonable to suppose that the message is an old one filed by Mr. Conger some time ago, and held back by the Chinese authorities? Could not Chinese officials have forged the message through possessing the State Department's code? Is it not reasonable to suppose that the code book was taken by Chinese from the American legation when Mr. Conger not seem improbable that an answer could have been returned in so short a time?

These are the questions that have been asked to-day and discussed by officials and the visitors who thronged the corridors of the State, War and Navy Building after news that an answer to Secretary Hay's message had become generally known. Nearly every-body, including most of those who ad-here to the belief that the message is utely genuine, admits that these questions are fair, and an attempt will therefore be made to answer them in the light of the explanations made by men whose opinions are of value. To get such opinions THE SUN reporter talked with cretary Hay, Secretary Long and many other

sage as genuine. He confesses that the doubts raised are in some cases worthy of consideration, but he cannot bring himself to believe that there has been forgery or duplicity. His confidence is all the more significant, be-Minister Conger and the other foreigners in Pekin were alive. Now he believes that they were alive on July 18, for he accepts that as the Pekin date of the message. It was so indicated in the message from Consul-General Goodnow and plainly stated in the telegram of the Governor of Shantung to Consul Fowler. The officials here do not believe that the date given is intended to be understood as of the Chinese calendar, which would be July 14 in the Gregorian calendar.

I am not so old as to believe that I cannot be fooled," said Mr Hay, "but unless you are prepared to admit superhuman ingenuity and marvellous mendacity on the part of the Chinese, the message must be accepted as

Chinese, the message must be accepted as genuine."

Superhuman ingenuity refers to the ability of the Chinese officials to write a message in the State Department cipher. Marvellous mendacity explains itself. Mr. Hay admits the possibility of Chinese possession of the Department's secret code, but he does not regard this as likely. He has faith in Minister Wu Ting-fang's honesty and in his ability to carry out his promise to get a message to Minister Conger. Summing up the Secretary's opinion, it is that he regards the message as genuine because it came in the secret code of the State Department, because it answered the Secretary's inquiry properly, because it contained information that reflects seriously on the Chinese Government and not in its favor, because it urges that relief be sent, and generally because it bears the earmarks of authenticity. Mr. Hay has respect for the honest doubts raised, but he regards these as not outweigning the points indicating that the message is genuine.

raised, but he regards these as not outweighing the points indicating that the message is genuine.

Secretary Root and Secretary Long, while having regard for the reasonationess of the roints raised against the genuineness of the despatch, agree practically with Secretary Hay that it appears to be genuine. Mr. Long is, if anything, more emphatic in his belief in the authenticity of the message than is Mr. Hay.

To consider the message from every standpoint, the first question that naturally suggests itself is whether there is anything to show that it came from Pekin. We must accept the word of the Governor of Shantung for that. He says that it came from the Tsung-li-Yamen. If he forged it, he must be possessed of the State Department's code book. He has assumed the responsibility for the statement that it came to him from Pekin by a courier. That is all the evidence there is on that point.

Could the message have been forked? The cipher experts of the State Department, including Assistant Secretary Ade, say not unless the Chinese possess the code book. There are nearly 100,000 symbols in that book, and it would be impossible for anybody to write a message in the cods without having the book before them. Is there any possibility that the Chinese possess the code book? Yes, and it might be added that it is not beyond the range of probability that they do. These are official opinions, not mere corridor talk. Of course nobody knows whether Mr. Conger's code book was found by the Chinese when he fled from the burning American legation, and it is hardly worth white speculating on that point. But it possessed of the object as cipher experts. This shows that the possession of the code book was all that was necessary to forge a message, although

whether Mr. Conger used the simple or the arbitrary system of symbol arrangement could hardly have been known to anybody outside the State Department or the American legation in Pekin. The important admission was obtained by THE SUN reporter that it would not be surprising if the Chinese Government had a copy of the State Department's code. A copy of the code was sold outright to a foreign Government some years ago. Other foreign Governments were suspected of having copies of it. Notlong ago a new code was made on account of these discoveries. Whether any foreign Government has a copy of that is not known here. And here the speculation in this connection must end.

What is regarded by most of the doubters as the greatest point of importance is covered by the question: Is the Conger telegram an old message written by the Minister and held by the Chinese Government? The officials admit that this is not an unreasonable supposition, but it is pointed out at the State Department that the question necessarily involves the theory that the Chinese officials desired to deceive the United States they would have sent an old cipher message of Minister Conger's without knowing its contents, on the chance that it answered that sent by Secretary Hay on July 11. The possibilities for a discovery of the duplicity are too great, the officials ags.

One of those who believes that everything points to the authenticity of the message, calls attention to the statement of the Tsungil-Yamen that "the Secretary of State, which please forward." To believe that the message is not genuine is to put the Tsungil-Yamen that "the Secretary of State, which please forward." To believe that the message is not genuine is to put the Tsungil-Yamen in the attitude of deceiving the United States; in other words, of performing an act toward a friendly, Government which would be just cause for a severance of friends, and which might be a cause for war between the United States and China if it were known that Minister Conger had been killed when the mes

found that the despatch purporting to have been written by Minister Conger was dated after his death, the Chinese Government would place itself in the position of being responsible for his murder.

Another important question asked of the officials was: "Why did not Mr. Conger put in his message something to show that it was an answer to Secretary Hay's telegram of July 11, or merely an old message?" Secretary Hay told The Sun reporter that there was no word contained in his telegram to Mr. Conger which could have been used by the Minister to show that his answer was authentic. There was nothing in the Conger had received Secretary Hay's telegram, and it is considered somewhat strangs that Mr. Conger would have omitted such ack nowledgement.

Most of these questions have been asked by those who doubt the genuineness of the Conger despatch. Those who maintain, or rather think, that it is authentic for there is no official here who will not admit that there are possibilities of deception involved, have devoted themselves to explaining their views to the doubters. But they, too, have raised a point. Would the Chinese Government have forged such a message as that received to-day? Would Prince Tuan or those opposed to the Chinese Government's supposed desire to protect the Ministers have forged such a message? Of course answers to these questions must be based on the supposition that the code book of the State Department was possessed by the Chinese. In the first place, Minister Conger is made to say that he is in the British legation, which is being bombarded continuously by Chinese troops. That acquits the Chinese Government of duplicity, say those who hold that the message is genuine. It would not have said that Chinese troops were doing the bombarding, they contend; it would have used some such word as Boxers, rebels or revolters in describing those engaged in attacking the British legation. Then Minister Conger is made to say that "quick relie" only can prevent general massacre." Would either the Chinese Governm

Diplomatic Corps who are here now, it any message that has passed through the

allowances.

The contents of Mr. Conger's message were transmitted to every American Ambassador and Minister in Europe and to the Minister in Japan, with instructions to lay the despatch before the Governments to which they are accredited.

MINISTER WU EXULTANT.

He Is Sure That the Message He Obtained From Minister Conger Is Genuine.

WASHINGTON, July 20 .- Wu Ting-fang, the when he returned to the Chinese Legation afte leaving the message from Minister Conger with Secretary Hay. Minister Wu has been insistent from the first that Minister Conger was safe He said to a reporter of THE SUN:

"To show Secretary Hay my message as i originally came to me and was translated here at the legation I took with me my code, so that the Secretary of State could have no doubt as to what my message was. Of course I could translated the message from Minister Conger by its own cipher what his message contained but I wanted to assure Secretary Hay of the source of my message asking me to forward Conger's message to him." My message came by way of the Shanghai Taotal, and the telegraph company has been asked to repeat it so that one or two obscure or omitted words may be verified. These words are not important. The fact that the message from Minister Conger came in the State Department cipher is the main thing. Now we know that he was alive on July 18. We know that he was not safe by any means, but alive. The thing now

'I am much gratified to have been able to get this reply so soon to Secretary's Hay's cipher message sent a week ago to Minister Conger When the edict was received a week ago Wednesday Secretary Hay asked me if I was willing to try to get a message through to Mr. Conger I replied that I would do everything in my power to do so. But I said to the Secretary that there would be no use, perhans, in my sending a message to the American Minisster. When it reached him he would likely ask. Who are you? 'Who is he?' He might have thought that I was an agent of the Boxers and made no reply. So I suggested that the safe way would be for me to forward a State Department cipher message, which Minister Conger would know came direct from his Government and could not come from

suggested that the safe way would be for me to forward a State Department cipher me-sage, which Minister Conger would know came direct from his Government and could not come from any one else. This I did for Secretary Hay, and the whole circle is complete, showing the course the message took from your Secretary of State through me to Pekin and to your Minister, and the course his message took in reaching Secretary Hay.

"Those who would impeach all of the Chinese on account of the wrongdoing of some of them cannot now it seems to me, have any doubt that I have done my best and that I am anxious to serve your Government to the utmost of my ability during these unfortunate troubles in China. Some people would impeach that grand old man, I i Hung Chang, who has left Canton, where he was perfectly safe, and risked his life in his old age by proceeding to Pekin to do what he can to save the foreigners there. He is a progressive man, and better known by the civilized world than any other Chinaman; yet when trouble comes some people doubt him.

"I have asked that judgment be withheld until we could get definite information as to the attitude of the leaders of the recognized Chinese Government. I think this message to-day will be an object lesson to those people in Europe and in this country who have thought evil of the Chinese authorities. This Government has treated me with highest consideration. I do not believe that the German Government has treated me with highest consideration. I do not believe that the German Government has treated me with highest consideration. I do not believe that the German Government has treated me with highest consideration. I do not believe that the German Government has treated me with highest consideration. I do not believe that the German Government has forbidden my colleague sending cipher messages, because I received one from him three days ago. See how such action would have affected me had your Government when he would have been open for me to have forwarded Secretary Hay's message

INSISTS THE ENVOYS ARE ALIVE. The Governor of Shantung Cites as Proof

Minister Conger's Message. Special Cable Despatches to THE SUN LONDON, July 20. Sir Chih-Chen Lo-Feng-Lub, the Chinese Minister here, received at 2:30 o'clock this afternoon the following mes-

sage from the Governor of Shanghai: The Governor of Shantung wires that a code telegram from Conger, United States Minister at Pekin, bearing date 22d of Sixth Moon (July 18), has just passed the station for Washington. This plainly shows that all the Minsters and other Europeans are alive. Please send this news to the Ministers at other courts.

The First Secretary of the Chinese legation in an interview to-day declared that news had been received from Pekin, but that it was private and he was unable to disclose it yet. Mr. Conger's message was a portion of this news and he said it might be taken as true and as coming direct from Pekin. He was unable to say why the other Ministers in Pekin were unable to communicate with their governments. He did not whether direct telegraphic communication with Pekin had been reëstablished, but had no doubt the channel used by Mr. Conger was open to the other Ministers. Perhaps a supreme effort had been made in the case of Mr. Conger's message. Very likely the Chinese do not realize the anxiety of Europe for direct communication with the Ministers.

BRUSSELS, July 20.-THE SUN'S COFFE ent can state positively that the Belgian Formassacre of foreigners at Pekin.

PIRATES ACTIVE AT CANTON. Outrages Follow the Departure of Viceroy LA Hung Chang for Pokin.

Special Cable Despatches to THE SUN LONDON, July 20 .- A despatch to the Central News from Hong Kong, dated July 19, 7:35 P. M., says that the riotous spirit which it was predicted would show itself in Canton on Viceroy Li Hung Chang's departure has already been manifested. Pirates are infesting the river. and yesterday they seized a Hong Kong passenger launch and forced the passengers, who were mostly Chinese girls, to go aboard the pirate junk. Then they stripped the launch

Pirates at Kamchuk robbed the passengers of another launch of \$13,000. Two French gunboats have landed 300 Annamese soldiers to protect Chamien, a suburb of Canton.

and proceeded to Canton.

Hong Kong, July 20.-Advices from Canton are to the effect that all the Tartar troops have been moved to the Bogue and other outer forts. Some Black Flags have moved to the Tartar General's yamen. Three thousand others, with their chief, are at the intrenched camp, with artillery. From 7-000 to 10,000 men have moved elsewhere. Canton Itself is quiet.

MISSIONARIES REPORTED SAFE. Arrival at Vladivostock of a Party of Twelve

Who Escaped From China. Special Cable Despatches to THE SUN. BELFAST, July 20.-A cable dispatch has been received here announcing the safe arrival at Vladivostock of the missionaries who were stationed at Kirul, Kwang and Chungtzu, China. It is believed that these missionaries, Scotch, English and Irish, are twelve in number. No details of their escape from China are given. LONDON, July 20.-The China Inland Mission has received reassuring cable dispatches in regard to the Chungkung and Kiuklang missions Everything was quiet at these places yesterday.

TROOPS COMING FROM CUBA

Orders Sent to the First Infantry to Be Ready to Embark in Ten Dave.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN HAVANA, July 20 .- In accordance with in structions from Governor General Wood, Lieut.-Col. Scott, Assistant Adjutant-General, has ordered the First Infantry, now stationed at Guanajay and Pinar del Rio, to be ready to embark in ten days. A troop of the Seventh Cavalry has been ordered to go to Guanajay to take the place of the Tenth Calvary.

Recent Movements of Warships Show That an Attack Was Feared.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN SHANGHAI, July 19.—Customs officers started for Wenchau to-night. Their safety is guaran teed by the Taotai. The recent movements of warships show that danger was apprehended Shanghai is now considered to be safe.

THESE MISSIONARIES SAFE. Presbyterians Leave Chefoo for Corea and

For the first time since June definite news was received yesterday by the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions from one of its representatives in the Shantung province. During the past ten days numerous despatches have been forwarded to the Presbyterian mission at Chafon saking for definite news concerning the situation in the province, and in reply to one cabled as follows from Chefoo:

"Christians bitterly persecuted. Official proclamation demands recant. Missionaries Chefoo, Tsing-ku, Corea, Japan. Awaiting

developments. Consul indorses."

Rev. Arthur J. Brown, Secretary of the Pres byterian board, said that the cablegram confirmed the reports of Chinese uprisings against the Christians in Shantung and also the report that the Governor of the province had issued an official proclamation demanding that native Christians renounce their religion. The board interprets the despatch to mean that the sixty with their native helpers, have escaped from the districts in East and West Shantung and taken refuge in Corea and Japan. This action on the part of the missionaries was indorsed by the American Consul, Hon. John Fowler, at Chefoo. A cable blunder is noted in the spelling of Tsing-ku. What was undoubtedly meant was Tsing-tan.

Dr. Brown said: "While it is encouraging, so far as the safety of our missionary force is concerned, it brings depressing suggestions regarding native Christians, who are now doubtless left to the violence of the mobs. The cable contained no information in regard to what effort had been made to protect the mission property, which, besides the churches, includes schools and hospitals having a value of several hundred thousands of dollars. In all probability this property has been destroyed. In accordance with a vote of the Presbyterian board passed Thursday, the following cablegram was forwarded yesterday to the missions at Tsing-tan, Shanghal, Chefoo, Canton and Kiung-chow:

"Warn all missionaries to avoid risk. Keep in reach of steamers. Board gives full discretion to remove to accessible stations or to go to Shanghai or Japan if peril becomes imminent."

A despatch was also received by the board Dr. Brown said: "While it is encouraging, se

tion to remove to accessible stations or to go to Shanghai or Japan if peril becomes imminent."

A despatch was also received by the board yesterday from David J. Hills, Assistant Secretary of State, Washington, giving information of the message received from Minister Conger. At all the different denominational boards of foreign missions in the city the supposed message from Minister Conger came as a great relief and has given renewed hope for the safety of the missionaries at Pekin.

Believing that the native Christians taking refuge at Chefoo are in need of aid, the Prespyterian Board cabled an order for \$500, the gift of a Western man, to the Rev. Hunter Corbett at Chefoo, to be expended as he saw fit in relieving the native refugees. It is very douotful whether Mr. Corbett will receive the cablegram, for later in the day the despatch from the Rev. W. O. Eltenich was received announcing the departure of missionaries at Chefoo.

Increased anxiety is being felt by the Methodist Board of Missions as to the safety of their missionaries. Yesterday a cablegram was sent to the Rev. Frederick Brown at Chefoo, asking him to give the location of all the Methodist missionaries.

Among recent letters received from China by the Presbyterian Board is one from Mrs. Charlotte M. Jewell, missionary at Tien-Tsin, dated May 30. It confained reports of the Boxers having killed many native Roman Catholics and some Protestants and rumors of the death of eight Christian women and children at one of the outlying stations. Mrs. Jewell wrote that "the manner of their death was peculiarly atrocious, they having been; ished under water until life was extinct."



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MRS. CONGER'S IMPRESSIONS OF THE EMPRESS DOWAGER.

An Account by the Wife of the American Minister of a Vielt to the Ferbidden City at Pekin-Cordiality Shown by the Em-press-Wonders of the Chinese Court. DES MOINES, Ia., July 20 .- Mrs. Conger, wife of Major Edwin H. Conger, United States Minster to Chine, described in a letter written to a of the other foreign Ministers at Pekin to the Empress Dowager last winter. She says:

"There is one more thing I must tell you about, because I think you will see much in it. It is of a visit that the foreign Ministers' wives made to the Empress Dowager. It is stated, and said to be true, that she had never seen a foreign woman and that a foreign woman had never seen her. The idea was conceived that an audience to the seven foreign Ministers wives. They wished to pay their compliments to her on her sixty-fourth birthday. The audi-

was decided upon.

"At 10:30 mounted escorts, sent by the Yamen, went to each legation and escorted the ladies to the British legation, Lady MacDonald being doyenne. Each lady was in a sedan chair having five chairbearers and two mounted at 11 o'clock for the Forbidden City to see the Empress Dowager. Can you see the picture Seven chairs with five bearers and two maffoos escorts sent by the Yamen!

"When we reached the gate of the Forbidder City we had to leave our chairs, bearers, maffoos, escorts all. Inside the gate were seven red upholstered chairs in a line, with six bearers each and many escorts on foot. We were taken to another gate, where, inside, we found a fin railroad coach, given by France. We entered this fine car, and many eunuchs, dressed in black, pushed and hauled us to another stopping place, where we were received by many officials, offered tea, &c. This railroad passed through a beautiful city, clean and imperial. After tea serving we were escorted to the palace. Our heavy garment escorted to the palace. Our heavy garments were taken and we were uahered into the presence of the Emperor and Empress Dowager. We stood according to rank and bowed. Our first interpreter presented each lady to Prince Ching, and he, in turn, presented us to the Empress Dowager. Then Lady MacDonaid read a little speech in behalf of the ladies. The Empress Dowager responded through Prince Ching. Another bow on our part. Then each lady was escorted to the throne where she bowed and courtesied to the Emperor, who reached out his hand to each. Then a bow and courtesy to the Empress Dowager. She reached out both hands and we stepped forward to her. She took both of ours, then placed upon the linger of each lady a beautiful heavy chased gold Chinese ring, set with a very large, fine pearl.

"After thanking her we backed from the

since took both of ours, then paced upon the finger of each lady a beautiful heavy chased gold Chinese ring, set with a very large, fine pearl.

"After thanking her we backed from the throne and took our places below as before. From here we were escorted by many, many, richlydressed, highly painted, decorated young Chinese women and Chinese officials to the banquet hall, where a large table was filled to overflowing with Chinese and European food. Prince Ching, Princess ching and five other princesses sat at the table with us. The Empress Dowager and Princes Ching were dressed in most exquisitely embroidered rich satins and sikes, with large pearl decorations.

"They were not painted and their halr was not extended to the extreme. The young princesses were beautifully and carefully dressed in rich, fine, embroidered satins in bright colors. They had painted faces, hair extended and elaborately ornamented, and had long gold finger protectors. They were pictures. The Empress Dowager and all of her court have large feet. They are Manchurians. The binding of feet is losing its popularity among the highest classes. Everywhere with us were Chinese interpreters, who spoke English and French well.

"After this meal we were invited into other rooms and offered ofgarettes and tea. The table was cleared away and we were invited into the hall again. There sat the Empress Dowager, and we gathered about her as before. She seemed bright and happy. Her face was aglow with good will. There was no trace of cruelty to be seen. In simple expressions she welcomed us, but her actions were full of freedom and warmth. She arose and wished us well. She reached both hands toward each lady, and then to herself, and said, with much enthusiantic earnestness:

"One family, all one family." Everything, each each lady was in Chinese She

onthusiastic earnestness:
"One family, all one family."

by and then went to the theatre. We soon followed with our large and beautiful escorts, and listened to and saw a Chinese theatre at its very best. After about one hour's stay, interpreters explaining the plays and tea being served all the while, we were escorted back to the banquet hall and seated as before at a loaded table of much food. Again we were taken to other rooms and the tables cleared away. Once more we were permitted to see the Emireses Dowager. She was very cordial and when tea was passed to us she stepped forward and tipped each cup of tea to her own lips. She took a sip, then lifted the cup on the other side to our lips and said again:

"One family, all one family.

"Here she presented us more beautiful gifts, all alike. After this wonderful dream day, so yery unreal even to the seeming, we reached

"Here she presented us more beautiful gifts, all alike. After this wonderful dream day, so very unreal even to the reeming, we reached home at 5 o'clock. In these foreign countries Americans and English are almost, if not quite, one people. It is often, very often, said by the English, Americans and other foreign countries that Euglish and Americans are all the same. Only think, China after centuries and centuries of looked doors has now opened them a little. No foreign woman ever saw the rulers of China before, and no Chinese ruler ever saw a foreign woman before. Think of this: English was the first language spoken to them by foreign women. English is the commercial language of China, and women took English into the Forbidden City and to the very throne of China, and gave it in an English woman's thought.

"My first boy tried to impress upon me what a great thing had come into my life in this visit toroyalty. He said: Madame, much grand thing came to you. Emperor came down from heaven. No foreign lady see him; few Chinamen. He came down from heaven. You very blest.' He opened his eyes, rolled them up, shook his head and pointed up to impress upon me the great honor and blessing we had received.

"To him it was all to see the Emperor, little or nothing to see the Empress Dowager. She is a woman. The Emperor is sacred to the Chinese. He is walled in his city and is not to be seen by his subjects, nor is he to see them. He learns nothing of his country or countrymen by observation or experience. How can this Empire grow in strength and glory in such bondage? Everything about this China is made up of the seeming improbable. It is the extreme of all we can dream. While our loved thoughts often turn homeward, on the whole we are getting much value out of China and I predict, that through good cheer and good will we may not come away with any feelings of regret in ourselves or others that have come to this far off land. Mr. Conger's labors increase as new questions keep coming up to be met."

M'KINLEY BACK IN CANTON

M'KINLEY BACK IN CANTON.

His Pleasure Over the News From Conger -Had Believed Conger Was Safe.

CANTON, Ohio, July 20. - Had President McKinley allowed himself to be interviewed Conger at the Pennsylvania station this morning he probably would have said "I told you so." It is well known that President McKinley has never abandoned hope that Minister Conger at least and probably the other Ministers would escape massacre and ultimately be rescued. He has so expressed himself to friends and to several persons who have called to talk over the Eastern situation with him. As he expressed it to John Barret, former United States Minisit to John Barret, former United States Minister to Siam, several weeks ago, he felt that the Minister of the United States might escape even though others perished, because of the very close and cordial relations long existing between the two countries and China's knowledge that the United States was not seeking territory in the Empire.

These hopes were not entirely dispelled the other day when the unofficial reports seemed most conclusive and the President went toWashington to go over the situation with the members of his official family. But while the President did not express himself in words to be quoted, he made no effort to conceal his gratification over the news and gave no indication of doubt of the trustworthiness of the despatch. That there is some justification for the President believing that the representative of the United States might escape even though the representatives of other countries might perish is shown by the consideration given to this country by the Chinese officials in efforts to secure light on the situation. This has been illustrated several times lately, but more especially by the message received from Conger to-day. While all of the powers were exerting every effort to get the information. Secretary Hay was the first to succeed, and so far as now known here the only one to succeed.

The President returned to Canton about 10 o'clock this morning expecting to continue his vacation here for some time. He came on a regular train, travelling in a special car, and his own carriage met him at the station. For once he made the trip to his home without band or escort committee. Both press and official despatches were handed him at the station and other despatches and official documents awaited him at the house. They must have been all favorable in tone, however, for he was soon out for a country road drive with Mrs. McKinley.

The callers seemed to have well timed his return, for they were for the most part merely people who wanted to shake hands, and they came in small parties and one

A CUP OF TEA COSTS MORE.

TURMOIL IN CHINA HAS RAISED PRICES THREE CENTS A POUND. Wholesale Dealers Have Laid in a Large Stock,

but Only the First Pickings of the Crop Have Arrived - A Tea Merchant Who Takes No Stock in the Conger Despatch. The turmoil in China has already had its effect upon the tea market. On the early tidings of the serious troubles in China, three weeks ago, the total stock of tea in this country amounted to about 28,000,000 pounds. The early in June, were on the ocean, but this amounted to only a very limited supply, the heaviest shipments from China being made in July, August, September, October, and early November, by which last time the crop for the year is all aboard ship and on its way to its

Thus when the reports of the Chinese troubles began to take serious form and the outlook there became more and more dark the wholesale visability of laying in a good stock. They began three weeks ago to make heavy purchases of the Front street importers and the years. The consequence of this was a general but not heavy advance of prices. At this moment there is an average increase on all grades of tea of about three cents a pound over the prices that ruled three weeks ago. The wholesale dealers are now pretty well stocked up and the retailers are at present in the market and buying freely. The tea importers estimate roughly that there are between 400,000 and 500,000 retail dealers in the country and if they all were to increase their orders by even two packages on the average over their usual purchases it would mean a very heavy increase of total sales—say 800,000 to 1,000,000 packages. The packages average forty pounds, so that the total increase in sales in pounds on this basis would be from 32,000,000 to 40,000,000in other words more than the entire amount of ten there was estimated to have been in the country when the rapid buying began three

ten there was estimated to have been in the country when the rapid buying began three works ago.

The first of the situation in China, its probable future effect upon the ten market and the recent advance in prices, Mr. Edwin F. Phelan, head of the firm of George W. Lain & Co., and one of the best informed men in the country on the ten trade, and yesterday that there are not to the ten trade, and has not been. In the moreone of a state of affairs that is patent to everybody. There is no such combination, continued on more of what is actually going on in china and can guess no more usely as to what the patent in the subject of the such as the subject of the country from thinese sources. Now I am and can guess no more assety as to what the patent reading public. My own opinion is that not the slightest reliance can be placed upon anything that comes to this country from thinese sources. Now I am any deeploin that might be practised by Chinese home efficials. I should believe rather types with all that I have liftle faith in the genuineness of the cablegram from Mr. Conger amounting the safety of the emembers of the legations which some people are accepting today. What insendence is the safety of the members of the legations which some people are accepting today. What insendence is the safety of the emembers of the legations which some people are accepting today. What insendence is the safety of the emembers of the legations which some people are accepting today. What insendence is the safety of the emembers of the legations which some people are accepting today. What insendence is the safety of the emembers of the legations which some people are accepting to any opinion, we know that the collection of the safety of the emembers of the legation will be safety of the emembers of the legations which some people are accepting to any opinion will be safety of the emembers of the legations which some people are accepting to any opinion, we know that the collection of the safety of the safety of the safety of the safety

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the great shipping port for the green and Congou to the Congou teals what we know as the English breakfast tea. That is a name that is peculiar to this country. They would not know in England what you meant by it; still less would they know in China. The origin of the term was accidental and peculiar. Some twenty-five years ago a chap who had a little restaurant in Chatham street—now called Park Row—here in New York, had the happy idea of putting a sign in his window notifying the public that within was to be had the 'Delicious English Breakfast Tea." The sign attracted attention. Women saw it and they sent their husbands to the grocers in quest of "the delicious English breakfast tea." There was no such thing in the market, of course, but there was a demand for it and the demand was met. It became the custom to call the Congou tea "English breakfast tea." until now the name is generally adopted in the trade. The peculiarity of the tea is that it is a little more fermented than others, giving it a sort of maity flavor which women sometimes describe as "a herb taste."

This tea and very great quantities of the green tea came through Shanghai. The natives there and back in the tea provinces are supposed to be friendly to foreigners—that is, friendly as compared with the Chinese of the north, and probably would be not so easily led into the Boxer movement. Of course for all we know the Chinese Government itself may be involved in the movement. But even if that is the case it by no means follows that the expertation of tea would be cut off. It, so important a source of revenue to large numbers of people in China that cutting it off would be sure to be strongly opposed. For this reason I am inclined to take a somewhat hopeful view of the probability of Shanghai escaping attack.

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"Only the first pickings, a very small fraction of this year's crop of tea, are now on the way here. Yet the wholesale dealers are all well stocked up already, and if the full crop comes on the market are pretty apt to be overstocked, with a consequent reaction in prices as a very strong probability.

"Summarized, the effect to date of the troubles in China is that there have been very heavy transactions in tea within the bast three weeks; wholesalers are always supplied and retailers buving; tea has advanced on an average three cents a pound through all the grades, and tea dealers are all at sea as to what the market is to do in the future for the reason that, like everybody else, they are all at sea as to what the convulsion in China really means."

A member of the tea firm of Carter, Macy & Co. said yesterday that prices of tea were nearly as high a year ago as they are today although to-day's prices on some grades might be 15 to 20 per cent, higher than the extreme lowest prices recorded. He said that one difficulty of the situation in China now being felt was the reluctance of purchasers to go with money into the tea-growing districts, the buyers carrying silver bullion with them to pay with. These purchasers do not like to trust themselves in the country now with considerable sums upon them and there is a corresponding reluctance of banks to lend money to move the crops. About one-half our tea, the same dealer said, comes from China and the other half from Japan. The Ceylon teas cut no considerable figure in our market.